







# GMA 'walking billboards' costing gov't P30M a day, says Enrile

By Carlos Padilla

THE GOVERNMENT is spending at least P30 million a day to pay for the Philippine street sweepers that pick up long discarded debris located in the vicinity of President Manuel A. Roxas.

According to opposition senatorial candidate Juan Nolasco, these "walking billboards" would cost taxpayers close to P3 billion for the entire duration of the 90-day election campaign period.

At an average per kilometer of the 31.6 km of national roads in the entire country, there are 150,000 of these sweepers employed to "sweep" GMA's campaign trucks," Enrile said in a statement.

**Car registration fees**  
He said the street sweepers are paid P100 per day from the start of the campaign period to Feb. 28.

"I have been told by GMA and some sort of early morning drivers to maintain that they are sweeping a campaign site," Enrile said.

The street sweepers' pay comes from car registration fee collection, officially known as the motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC).

Enrile pointed out that the MVUC was meant to be used for the removal of trash and "not the removal of trash."

Enrile estimated that from 2005 to 2007, MVUC collection reached P1.2 billion.

"Our roads are not our only concern that the thespian campaign, for all its cost, has not reached the voter level," said the former defense minister in the Makabato.

**Borja's chairman, too**

Enrile said that only from the P3 billion paid for the street sweepers, the government is also shelling out P10 million for the salaries of 40,000 highway cleaners in charge of these temporary employees.

Under the act, each highway cleaner is paid P500 a month, he said.

In addition to these, the Department of Public Works and Highways has also bought some 10 million pieces of earth of Manila, Iloilo and others for the cleanup work, Enrile said.

"These are the bills the walking billboards campaign of the President is being paid for," he said.

Enrile said the law provides that the MVUC should be deposited in a

trust account but it appears that it is being used by the Department of Public Works for "political events."

**GMA denial**

The President, however, had dismissed accusations that the sweeping public funds for electioneering.

In a statement on March 31, the President said, "In the first place, I am not using public funds for campaigning. Secondly, I shall not allow the opposition to stop me from serving the people."

The opposition continues to say the highway cleaners want to stop the President from building a new road for the people and maintaining the roads," he had said, adding that the street sweepers go to all districts serving the people.

The spokeswoman Agnide Borja said that public funds were being used properly.

"There are multiple projects that are needed for the people, 'bump and go' and progress on health, education, clean water and maintenance of roads were vital to the nation."

All of them are part of the program that must be carried out even during the election period," he said.

RHS/Julia Luning-Aguilera

# SMC acquires Thai brewery for \$102M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SMC and beverage giant Thai Beverage Corp. is acquiring the assets of Thai Beer under Thai Assets Brewery Ltd. The move is expected to increase SMC's entry into the beverage Thai beer market.

Key SMC officials and their counterparts in Thai Beverage were scheduled to sign a letter of intent in Bangkok this afternoon and complete agreement for the asset acquisition. Closing of the deal is expected within the next 90 days.

SMC acquired Thai Beer's assets for \$102 million. The assets include a brewery on a 11.75-hectare property in Pathum Thani province in Central Thailand, some 20 kilometers north of Bangkok. The brewery has a capacity of about one million bottles daily.

The factory has been used for some 11 years of various local and foreign brands for local exportation. Also included in the deal is Thai Assets's 2.5-hectare property in Bangkok area in Mueang Bangkok, which has an existing port facility that gives the new assets in the Thai Beer market.

The brewery will allow the entry of SMC's new beer brands into Thailand, the fastest growing and largest beer market in Southeast Asia. It also allows SMC to enter into the Thai Beer market in Thailand and in the region, SMC said in a statement.

San Miguel (Thailand) Co., Ltd., the newly formed venture of SMC in Thailand's largest industrial zone, will engage in the production and distribution of SMC products such as beer, processed food and snacks, as well as spirits.

# Loren: Asking Sandra to apologize wrong

By Vincent Calmes

PH/Staff Writer/Columnist

MANILA CITY—After presidential candidate Benigno Aquino III asked Sandra Aguinaldo to apologize for her role in the "Dutay" incident last week, the candidate's campaign team is asking for an apology from the candidate's wife, Sandra Aguinaldo, the GMA-7 said in a report.

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in a press conference last on Tuesday.

Lorena said she often feels proud for her country and her role in the "Dutay" incident last week.

According to the report, the candidate's campaign team is asking for an apology from the candidate's wife, Sandra Aguinaldo, the GMA-7 said in a report.

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in her and asked her if she wanted to speak now.

"I want to apologize on my part," Lorena said, before saying she asked her about the incident.

"Yes, I am not just an actress, I am a woman, and I am not just a woman, I am a mother," Lorena said.

Lorena said she felt sorry for the candidate's wife, Sandra Aguinaldo, the GMA-7 said in a report.


According to the report, the candidate's campaign team is asking for an apology from the candidate's wife, Sandra Aguinaldo, the GMA-7 said in a report.



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# Fake gold bars seized

MANILA, Inquirers pressman, the other day seized fake gold bars and exhibited in separate operations in Southern Luzon.

Elements of the five intelligence units' (Unit 1) seized 56 fake gold bars, worth P12.7 million from a private company in an entrapment operation in Ilocos, La Union.

The reports—Victorino, Ilocos, La Union, and Ilocos, La Union—said they had seized 56 fake gold bars, worth P12.7 million from a private company in an entrapment operation in Ilocos, La Union.

In another operation, the BIR seized a shipment of expensive jewelry from a private company in Ilocos, La Union, worth P12.7 million.

—Jesse Reyes

# BSP warns banks passing out old dirty bills

By Dora C. Bantuan

MANILA (GMA)—The old and dirty bills in circulation are being replaced by new bills, but the BSP is warning banks not to pass out old dirty bills.

The "Clean Your Door" campaign is being launched by the BSP to encourage banks to stop passing out old dirty bills.

"We are urging banks to stop passing out old dirty bills, as this money is hard to use and it is a waste of time and money to pass out old dirty bills," said the BSP.

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## Lazy managers

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provide information leading to the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators.

While the circulation of fake money is not significant, the BSP has been receiving isolated reports of fake money being used in transactions.

"It is unfortunate that some of our people get victimized by counterfeiters," said the BSP. "Our advice, therefore, is for the people to be aware of the security features incorporated into genuine bank notes so that they would be able to reject fake bills," the statement said.

## How to spot a fake

Among the characteristics of genuine Philippine currency are:

• It has a special kind of paper that is rough to the touch and does not glow under ultra-violet light.

• There is a watermark or effluence of the face appearing on the note, whose features can be felt by the hand.

• Embedded red and blue visible fibers are scattered in random on both sides of a genuine note and could be readily picked off in any dry paper.

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—Jesse Reyes

# Men are poorer drivers —WHO

A STUDY by the World Health Organization showed that in all countries men are more likely to suffer in traffic accidents and more likely to be killed or maimed than women.

This is because men are more confident on the road than women, whether as drivers or pedestrians. They are more likely to speed or drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The WHO noted that road safety remains a global problem. In 1990, about 1.5 million people died in road accidents worldwide, with about 1.5 million people disabled.

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## What Drives You



## Avoiding panacea on the road

Men are poorer drivers than women, says a study by the WHO. The study found that men are more likely to speed or drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## Pre-Departure Offerings

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• Free 22-point Preventive Maintenance Check

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What Drives You? CALTEX

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## The World

Editor: Lorraine S. Gano

## US death toll in Iraq fighting mounts

**BAQIDAH**—US marines lost at least 13 dead in their most single toll in Iraq this year as occupation forces on Wednesday hurled 150mm and 82mm rockets and 125-Pounder George W. Bush vowed to crush the rebels "thugs and killers." Another 45 Iraqis were reported killed in the past 24 hours in fighting which, since Tuesday, has resulted in 10,000 Iraqi 120-mm.

Most of the deaths have been American. US led troops and soldiers suffered 150 deaths and 300 wounded in the past 24 hours. Iraqi forces have been killed in a major US operation in Baghdad, in a battle in Baghdad on Wednesday 25 Iraq, Gen. Samir Gharib stated in a news conference. Iraqi forces were killed in a major US operation in Baghdad, in a battle in Baghdad on Wednesday 25 Iraq, Gen. Samir Gharib stated in a news conference.

"We will not stop the fighting until we have secured the city," said a US official. "We will not stop the fighting until we have secured the city," said a US official.

most city in Iraq. The 120mm rockets were killed and two downed on Tuesday. The 120mm rockets were killed and two downed on Tuesday.

The deaths were the most in a single incident, a rocketing coalition troops. The deaths were the most in a single incident, a rocketing coalition troops.

It was the first time since the US invasion of Iraq that the US had killed more than 100 Iraqis in a single day. The US had killed more than 100 Iraqis in a single day.

Thirty Iraqis were killed and

30 wounded during overnight clashes between insurgents and US troops in Baghdad, as part of "Operation Vigilant Hammer," hospital sources and coalition officials said. The deaths were the most in a single incident, a rocketing coalition troops.

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**HAGHDAD**—Iraqi marines guard a wounded American in a waiting room after he was rescued following fighting in Baghdad. Iraq, April 14. Insurgents and coalition forces exchanged a series of attacks in Baghdad, with US forces losing a major battle in the southern city of Baghdad on Tuesday.

## Purported al-Qaida audiotape claims responsibility for dozens of attacks in Iraq

**RIYADH**—A man claiming to be a senior al-Qaida leader said the United States is responsible for the Iraq war. He said the United States is responsible for the Iraq war. He said the United States is responsible for the Iraq war.

The tape's authenticity could be verified, a US official speaking in the confidence of

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PROFILE OF A TERRORIST  
French trial links Madrid and Casablanca bombings

**LONDON**—MADRID—The 1993 David Greenglass, a Palestinian, is linked to a drug bust in the British town of Brighton. The case is linked to a drug bust in the British town of Brighton.

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## Spain hunts more blast suspects

**MADRID**—A Spanish prosecutor announced the search for suspects in last month's deadly Madrid car bombings, reporting as many as four persons could be involved in the attacks.

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## France finds crash site of 'Little Prince' author

**MADRID**—A French novelist's long-lost manuscript, long discovered, has been found in the ruins of a house in the French town of Marseilles, the author's family said.

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**REINHOLDS** march through a Holy Week procession in front of a cathedral in Seville, Spain, April 14.

## Spanish town starts Holy Week

**SEVILLE**—Spain—Seville, Spain, has begun its Holy Week. The town has begun its Holy Week. The town has begun its Holy Week.

The town has begun its Holy Week. The town has begun its Holy Week. The town has begun its Holy Week.

The town has begun its Holy Week. The town has begun its Holy Week. The town has begun its Holy Week.









WHIZ KID

9091 Gals, the fourth grade student, creative of Shady now living in Scottsdale, Arizona, who named Sherman Plum Saver's Spirit and Opportunity, controls the door travel of an annual Plum/Saver as Plum Administration Saver's (Shady) takes on at Space in Lake Shady Plaza, Florida, April 8.

## Election spells trouble for Indonesia's Megawati

JAKARTA—Ballot results from preliminary elections point to a realignment of Indonesian politics that spells trouble for President Megawati Sukarnoputri's hopes for reelection and prop up dark horse candidates promising clean government and a better life.

"Indonesia has one week there will be a new political map in Indonesia," said Soedjo Hadisoedarmo, co-leader of the newly formed Democratic Party and the candidate for emergency as Megawati's main rival stood in the July presidential race. He was referring to the interim house-voting that has already begun in the wake of Monday's legislative vote. Parties are jockeying for candidates that will almost certainly give

new government to Yudhoyono's group and one or more island-based parties which had surprisingly strong showings in early rounds.

The mainstream media parties—Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, known as PDI and the Golkar Party of Inner-Outer Indonesia—are set to win the next parliamentary vote in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

But Golkar's strong showing has hurt prospects for a Golkar-PDI alliance that would have ensured their mutual stronghold on power. Golkar officials said earlier they might offer a vice presidential candidate on Yudhoyono's reelection ticket if the party placed second in the parliamentary vote.

That meant opposition parties will likely have a big say in the formation of the next government. Besides the Yudhoyono's and the island-based Party of Justice and Prosperity have won support for promising to attack the national corruption that is blemishing Indonesia's fledgling experiment with democracy.

"This is a make-up call in the most liked parties that people are not happy with the way things have been going for the past five years," said political analyst David Forster from Asia of Washington morning about 11 percent of the estimated 220 million votes cast had been counted. The results showed Golkar and PDI in a virtual tie with about 28 percent each.

## Study cites benefits of frequent ejaculation

CHICAGO—Men who enjoy an active sex life need not fear that their sexual activities put them at risk of prostate cancer later in life, according to a study released Tuesday.

A study of almost 30,000 American men found no link between frequency of ejaculation and risk of prostate cancer, contrary to much previous research on the subject.

The results of the larger epidemiological study to date on the association between ejaculation and this type of cancer found quite the reverse.

An analysis of men's sexual behavior and the incidence of prostate cancer in this group suggested that frequent ejaculation may have some modest beneficial or protective effect in connection with prostate cancer.

"Our results suggest that high ejaculation frequency possibly may be associated with a lower risk of ... prostate cancer," said Michael Grossman, chief urologist and senior researcher with the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

The link between ejaculation and cancer of the prostate—the most common type of cancer among men in industrialized nations—has long been a matter of dispute.

An influential study in the journal *Epidemiology* published in 2002 concluded that there was an increased prostate cancer risk with greater sexual activity based on a review of existing scientific data.

Scientists who support this theory point to the fact that the male hormone testosterone is known to promote the growth of prostate cancer cells.

But the latter study, while it did not focus on the benefits of sexual activity, found that men who ejaculate 11 times a month or more, are much less likely to develop prostate cancer later in life than men who only do it four to seven times a month.

AP

## DNA tests clear ex-death row inmate

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia—DNA tests conclusively prove the innocence of former death row inmate Earl Washington II, in the rape and slaying of a woman in 1981, according to a federal document filed Tuesday.

Washington, who spent more than nine years on death row, was pardoned in 2000, 17 years after he was imprisoned for the killing of Rebecca Williams of College Park.

Washington's attorneys said results of the new tests show that the evidence that would have placed Washington—and convicted another man—has been in Virginia's custody for nearly two decades, long after the state's statute of limitations expired.

"This shows the testing done by the state and in a lab in Virginia was completely accurate. They just blew it," Steve Haskett, one of Washington's lawyers, said Tuesday.

Paul B. Bennett, director of Virginia's Division of Forensic Science, said he will review the new report and data but that he is "fully confident in the accuracy of the work performed" in the case.

A spokeswoman for Attorney General Jerry W. Milner said Tuesday she could see no reason to doubt the continuing investigation.

Washington's lawyers now use the DNA samples to Edward T. Smith, a California scientist, who concluded that semen found on the victim's body was left by a single man named Bennett. Smith, Virginia forensic scientist had determined only that the genetic material was left by an unidentified man who was not Washington.

In a civil suit filed in its District Court, Washington's attorneys have alleged that police and prosecutors coerced Washington, who was an IQ of 69, into confessing to a crime he did not commit and ignored details that pointed to his innocence.

AP











































